HOLDEN CONFIRMS STORY.

That Railroads and Brotherhood Men Are Dickering.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, who was chairman of the Committee of Railroad Executives which met President Wilson and the brotherhood officials in Washington last summer when a railroad strike was threatened, confirmed today that informal conferences had been held by railroad representatives with brotherhood representatives with brotherhood officials concerning a settlement out of court of the controversy between the railroads and their employes.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, also an-nounced at Evansville, Ind., last night that negotiations are under way be-tween leaders of the four brotherhoods and operating officials of several rail-roads looking to a settlement of the entire matter before January 1, when the Adamson law is to go into effect.

Both Mr. Lee and Mr. Holden said however, that the discussions had not progressed far enough even to suggest a basis for a permanent settlement.

"I don't feel that I can say much more than that the conferences have been held between the brotherhood men and the railroad officials," said Mr. Holden. "The meetings have been of a purely informal nature, and to date there has been no suggestion of an ultimate adjustment."

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INJUNCTION JUDGE GAGS FREE SPEECH

Chicago.—Attorneys for the Illinois State Federation of Labor have notified that body that the jail sentence of two strikers by Circuit Court Judge Smith on injunction proceedings constitutes an encroachment on the liberties of organized labor and is "a menace that threatens the very life of the trade union movement very life of Illinois."

The injunction was issued against employes of the Illinois Malleable Iron company. Two officers of the union signed an article published in a news-paper calling attention to the strike and urging all strikers to attend the next mass meeting.

Judge Smith fined the unionists and sentenced them to jail for violating his injunction. He ruled that this was not in violation of free press and free speech guarantees contained in the United States and Illinois constitutions.

The federation's attorneys say:

"The danger of this decision is ap-parent upon only a casual analysis of the matter involved. It will be noted that this publication is addressed to the strik-ers of the Illinois Malleable Iron company. It is a method by which a notice of meeting is published. If this decision is to hold as a precedent, it means that men can be cited and punished for contempt for violating an injunction for words used even in addressing meetings of union workingmen in their own halls and where every man in the body halls and where every man in the body is a defendant to the bill of complain upon which the writ of injunction is issued. It means that no matter how courteous the language used, no matter how careful a speaker may be, no matter what his purpose in the use of speech may be yet if as a result of his remarks, whether used to persuade men engaged in a strike, or to persuade men to join a union to advance the cause of organized labor (and the very life of organized labor depends upon the success and ability of members of organized labor to persuade others to join), if the employer can point out such language and show that it is a hindrance to his interests, under the broad and sweeping provisions of the injunction, the man making use of the language may be subject to a heavy fine and deprived of his lib-

"Organized labor may well ask if that be true. Are the constitutional provisions meant to guarantee the liberty of all the citizens of the United States and of this State, or are they meant to give additional liberty to a favored minority class, and deprive the poor man, the working man, the union man, of rights heretofore never seriously questioned or doubted?"

WHERE PUBLIC'S MONEY GOES.

Washington, D. C.-Editorial writers who thunder in defense of "the pub-lic" when workers deposit when workers demand an eighthour day, for instance, are overlooking sensational material for their favorite

Hearings are being held on the valuation of the Potomac Electric Power Company's plant, which the manage-ment appraises at \$20,000,000, against an \$8,000,000 valuation by the Public Utili-ties Commission. Included in the company's list is \$650,000 for "conceiver's compensation," \$700,000 for "brokerage and commissions," \$2,115,323 for "de-velopment charges," \$262,000 for "legal, franchise and entertainment," and \$25,-000 for "pre-organization charges."

The "conceiver's compensation" rep resents the price paid to the men, who, as Coropration Counsel Syme put it, thought it would be a good thing to have an electric light plant in Washing-

The company's expert agreed that it was hard to separate the charges of organization, conceivers and attorneys, but as a general proposition the con-ceivers were to do nothing but think of the plan for an electric light plant and the promoters would do the real promoting "and see the proper people."

"You assume then," said Corporation Counsel Syme, "that these conceivers come to the District of Columbia and tell the people here that they ought to have an electric light plant and should be paid \$600,000 for it? Are we to as-sume that there are no other electric light plants in the country and that no-body ever heard of one?"

"This is a hypothetical situation," said the company's expert. "For such purposes we assume the other plants are non-existent."

MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS Wiethorn, Louis, 407 Collins ave IS CONDEMNED.

"Organized labor is opposed to the use of militia as an armed agency of in-dustrial barons," said Matthew Wall, in-ternational president of the Photo En-gravers' Union at the Grand Opera House Sunday.

"Militarism is the greatest menace to democracy itself."

Woll condemned military training in public schools and urged pay for sol-diers in a standing army, for defensive purposes only, as high as wages in other departments of the government.

CONTRACTING FIRMS WHO ARE FAIR TO UNION LABOR

(Continued from page 8) Eisenstein, Benj., 1119 Yale ave. Ellenberger Bros., Lincoln Inn Court Bldg., 519 Main st. Engelhert, Jos. D. & Co., 29 E. Sixth st. Fast, Otto, 1608 Ruth ave. Farrell & Horning, 3555 Montgomery ave. Fern, Geo. E., 1252 Elm st. Gerson, A., 3114 Burnet ave. Gilbert, Charles, 2725 Eastern ave. Ginter, Wm., 1836 Westwood ave. Gruber, John, 906 State ave Grimm, Albert, 23 W. McMillan st. Grace, Chas. F., 959 Gest st. Graef, E., 1631 Madison rd. Griewe & Son, J. H., 1025 Broadway. Geisler, Harry B., 828 Kenyon ave. Gundrum & Son, 185 Clifton ave. Haigh, Frank A., 711 Epworth ave., Winton

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